

Antonia *Villarruel, PhD, RN, FAAN*

Antonia M. Villarruel, Ph.D., FAAN is Professor, Nola J. Pender Collegiate Chair, and Associate Dean for Research and Global Affairs at The University of Michigan School of Nursing. As a bilingual and bicultural nurse researcher, she has extensive research and practice experience with diverse Latino and Mexican populations and communities, and health promotion and health disparities research and practice. She incorporates a community-based participatory approach to her research. Specifically, her research focuses on the development and testing of interventions to reduce sexual risk behaviors among Mexican and Latino youth. She has been the PI and Co-PI of seven randomized clinical trials concerned with reducing sexual and other risk behaviors. As part of this program of research, she developed an efficacious program to reduce sexual risk behavior among Latino youth – entitled *Cuídate!*. This program is disseminated nationally by the CDC as part of their Diffusion of Evidence Based Interventions program. In addition to her research, Dr. Villarruel has assumed leadership in many national and local organizations. She is the past-President and founding member of the National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nursing Associations and past-President of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses. She has served as a member of the HRSA/CDC HIV/STD Advisory Council, the HRSA National Advisory Council for Nursing — Education and Practice, and also as a charter member of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services' Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities. She currently serves on the IOM Board of Population Health and Public Health Practice and chairs the IOM Roundtable on the Elimination of Health Disparities and the Advancement of Health Equity. She is a member of the Strategic Advisory Council of the AARP/RWJ Center for Health Policy Future of Nursing Campaign for Action and co-chairs the Diversity Task Committee. She has received numerous honors and awards including membership in the Institute of Medicine and selection as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.



Dr. Villarruel's Story

Dr. Villarruel reports that she chose nursing for many reasons- at the time she became a nurse there were limited options,” it was either be a nurse or be a teacher.” She states that if she had the decision to make today, “I would choose nursing again because of the variety of roles we are able to play-in health care settings, communities, business, and policy. I would choose nursing again, because of our collective impact. Associate Dean for Research and Global Affairs, Faculty Member and Researcher, when asked what she finds most gratifying about her job, Dr. Villarruel expressed “I love the work that I do, because I have the opportunity to have a global impact on students, faculty, adolescents, families, communities and policy makers.